

Appl. No. 10/666,004
Amdt. Dated September 16, 2005
Reply to Office Action Mailed June 16, 2005

REMARKS

These Amendments and Remarks are in response to the Office action mailed June 16, 2005. Claims 1-8 and 10-11 were pending in the present application before these Amendments.

In this Office action, claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Land et al. (U.S. Patent #6,807,533, hereinafter "Land") in view of Wong (U.S. Patent #6,115,690, hereinafter "Wong"). Claims 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Land in view of Benshemesh (U.S. Patent Application Publication #20030033216, hereinafter "Benshemesh"). Claims 8 and 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wong in view of Land.

Applicant appreciates Examiner's careful review of the application. In response, claims 1, 6, and 8 have been amended by these Amendments. Support for the amendments can be found in the disclosure as originally filed. Applicant asserts that no new matter is added. However, the claims are not limited to the disclosed embodiments. Reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5

Claim 1, as amended, recites a system for managing accounts receivable, the system comprising:

a database server for storing accounts receivable data;

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an application server electrically connected with the database server for accessing and processing data stored in the database server, the application server comprising a data obtaining module for obtaining data from external systems, a sales return managing module for managing accounting operations related to sales returns, *a sales discount managing module for managing accounting operations related to sales discounts*, an accounts receivable managing module for managing and updating the accounts receivable data stored in the database server, and an account booking module for *automatically* generating accounting entries; and

a plurality of client computers electrically connected to the application server for downloading data from and uploading data to the database server;

wherein the sales discounts comprise different discount types and discount rates, and the sales discount managing module can automatically calculate a discount of each purchase order according to corresponding one or more discount types and/or discount rates.

As indicated by Examiner, Wong fails to disclose the feature of: *a sales discount managing module for managing accounting operations related to sales discounts*, while Land does disclose this feature.

Applicant has added the following feature into claim 1, which feature was disclosed in the specification as originally filed: *wherein the sales discounts comprise different discount types and discount rates, and the sales discount managing module can automatically calculate a discount*

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of each purchase order according to corresponding one or more discount types and/or discount rates.

The above feature is not taught or suggested anywhere in Land or Wong, nor in Lee (U.S. Patent Application Publication #20030074289, cited by Examiner in the previous Office action mailed January 12, 2005).

Accordingly, applicant asserts that neither Land nor Wong, nor Lee, whether taken alone or in combination, teach or suggest the feature of: ***wherein the sales discounts comprise different discount types and discount rates, and the sales discount managing module can automatically calculate a discount of each purchase order according to corresponding one or more discount types and/or discount rates.***

Additionally, applicant respectfully disagrees with Examiner's statement in the Office action that Land teaches a system comprising "an account booking module for *automatically* generating accounting entries (Fig. 7 and col. 6 lines 26-40)." Land in Fig. 7 and col. 6 lines 33-37 discloses that "the integrity of OSB system 20 is critical for proper functioning of ARS 10 since ARS 10 uses the data received from OSB 20 to generate the general ledger entries as well as other management reports." That is, Land does not specifically mention that the generating process is executed *automatically*.

Accordingly, applicant asserts that neither Land nor Wong, nor Lee, whether taken alone or in combination, teach or suggest the feature of: an account booking module for *automatically* generating accounting entries.

For at least the foregoing reasons, applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 1 is unobvious and patentable over Land in view of Wong

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(and further in view of Lee, if applicable). Applicant requests reconsideration and removal of the rejection and allowance of the claim.

Claims 2-5 depend directly from claim 1, and incorporate more features therein respectively. Accordingly, it is submitted that claims 2-5 are also unobvious and patentable over the cited references for at least the foregoing reasons, and are thus in a condition for allowance.

Claims 6 and 7

Claim 6, as amended, recites a method for managing accounts receivable, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining a customer's purchase order data;

retrieving advance payment data related to the purchase order according to the obtained purchase order data;

obtaining a delivery message showing that the purchase order is fulfilled;

calculating an account receivable of the purchase order;

calculating a sales discount according to one or more discount terms recorded in the purchase order, wherein the sales discount comprises any one or more of different discount types and/or discount rates;

generating a sales invoice of the purchase order according to the calculated account receivable and the advance payment data; and

generating one or more accounting entries *automatically* according to the calculated account receivable and the advance payment data.

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For at least reasons similar to those asserted above in relation to amended claim 1, applicant asserts that neither Land nor Benshemesh, whether taken alone or in combination, teach or suggest the features of: *"calculating a sales discount according to one or more discount terms recorded in the purchase order, wherein the sales discount comprises any one or more of different discount types and/or discount rates"* and *"generating one or more accounting entries automatically according to the calculated account receivable and the advance payment data."*

Therefore, applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 6 is unobvious and patentable over Land in view of Benshemesh. Applicant requests reconsideration and removal of the rejection and allowance of the claim.

Claim 7 depends from claim 6, and incorporates another feature therein. Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 7 is also unobvious and patentable over the cited references for at least the foregoing reasons, and is thus in a condition for allowance.

Claims 8 and 10-11

Claim 8, as amended, recites a method for managing accounts receivable, the method comprising the steps of:

confirming fulfillment of a purchase order released by a customer according to a delivery message related to the purchase order;
determining whether a sales return has occurred on the purchase order;

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determining whether the purchase order has a sales discount if no sales return has occurred, and generating accounting entries for the sales discount if the purchase order has a sales discount;

calculating a sales discount according to one or more discount terms recorded in the purchase order, wherein the sales discount comprises any one or more of different discount types and/or discount rates;

determining whether the customer has accepted an alternative arrangement for the purchase order if a sales return has occurred, and reconfirming fulfillment of the purchase order if the customer has accepted the alternative arrangement;

canceling one or more sales invoices related to the purchase order if the customer has not accepted the alternative arrangements;

balancing one or more accounts receivable related to the purchase order; and

generating accounting entries for the sales return automatically.

For at least reasons similar to those asserted above in relation to amended claim 6, applicant asserts that neither Wong nor Land, whether taken alone or in combination, teach or suggest the features of: *"calculating a sales discount according to one or more discount terms recorded in the purchase order, wherein the sales discount comprises any one or more of different discount types and/or discount rates"* and *"generating accounting entries for the sales return automatically."*

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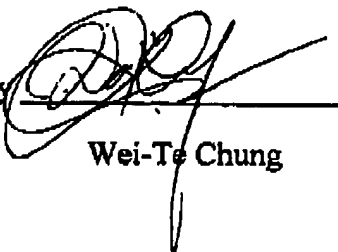
Therefore, applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 8 is unobvious and patentable over Wong in view of Land. Applicant requests reconsideration and removal of the rejection and allowance of the claim.

Claims 10-11 depend directly from claim 8, and incorporate more features therein respectively. Accordingly, it is submitted that claims 10-11 are also unobvious and patentable over the cited references for at least the foregoing reasons, and are thus in a condition for allowance.

In view of the above claim amendments and remarks, the subject application is believed to be in a condition for allowance, and an action to such effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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